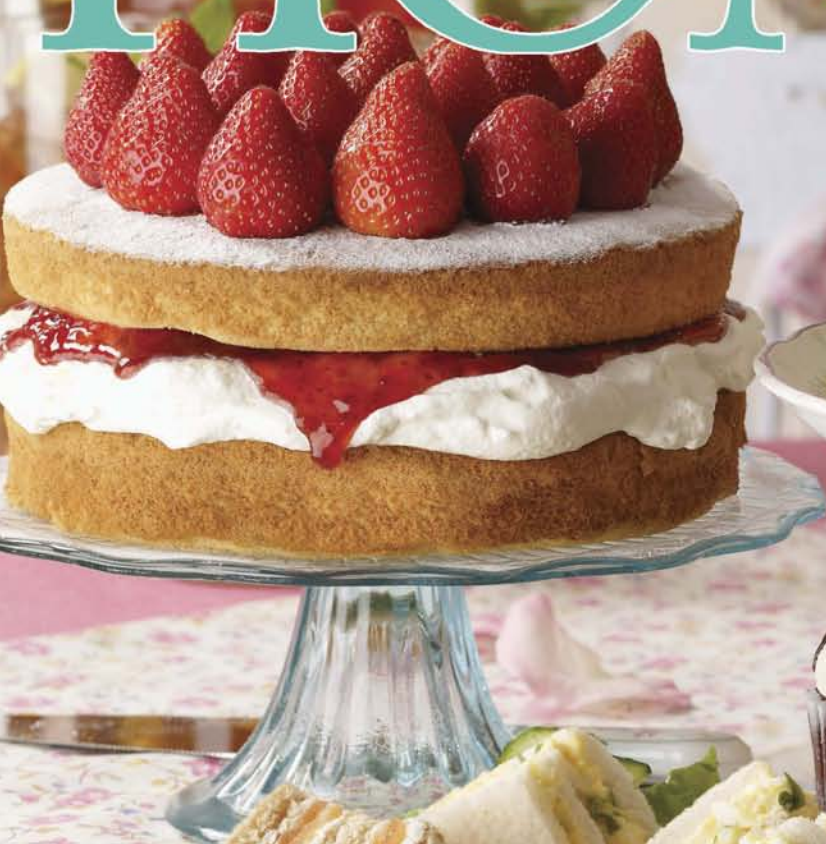


Romantic

Definitive guide to 48
TEA AND PARTIES: tips

CASUAL
ELEGANCE,
PERSONAL
STYLE

HOMES



Style
British, French, Vintage

Country to City:
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STYLE: BRITISH, FRENCH, VINTAGE

ON THE COVER

- Style: British, French, Vintage.....38, 62, 72, 88, 92
- Definitive Guide to Tea and Parties: 48 tips.....16, 22, 26, 44, 50, 56
- Country to City:
Designs for every taste.....12, 20, 62, 72, 88, 92

COME INSIDE

12 Details

Learn how to follow your heart in collecting beautiful, reasonably priced ironstone.

BY GAY VAN BEEK

16 Personalize

Handcraft unique fabric flowers to match any season or event.

BY AYDA ALGIN

22 Sweet

Discover how lavender from your garden can transform classic shortbread into yummy treats to serve with tea.

BY BARB BAMBER

26 Happy Kitchen

Delicious recipes and pretty fabrics help you say "I love you, Mom!" on Mother's Day.

BY SYLWIA GERVAIS

62 Romancing the Home

See how a Virginia family mixes inherited heirlooms and fresh furnishings in this charming farmhouse.

BY CHARLOTTE SAFAVI

72 Home on the Farm

Make your home a comfortable, welcoming retreat from the fast-paced world.

BY SHARON PARSONS/NARRATIVES





BRING IT HOME

- 20** Make It
Create these simple artistic tea towels to add color and personality to your kitchen.
BY AYDA ALGIN
- 36** My Home
Readers share amazing stories about their homes.
- 36** Love This!
Make sleepovers extra easy and fun with this charming portable bedding set.
- 38** Say Ahh
A London designer dishes on her tips for travel, collecting faded antiques and lovely all-white interiors.
BY JO-ANNE COLETTI

- 44** Ta Da
Set a spring-inspired brunch table perfect for celebrating Easter with loved ones.
BY DIANE SEDO

- 56** British Teatime
Check out our definitive guide to the ritual of teatime.
BY JACQUELINE DEMONTRAVEL

- 84** Work of Art
Adore flowers? This stunning new book on everything horticulture will brighten up your coffee table and put a smile on your face.
BY JACQUELINE DEMONTRAVEL

- 88** Simply
Discover how topiaries can bring a touch of the English countryside into your home and garden.
BY MELINDA GRAHAM

- 92** Be Here Now
Use displays of vintage treasures to bring a cozy, inviting look to your kitchen.
BY DEVLIN SMITH

SHOPPING

- 50** Browsing
Set your table for a tea party even the Duchess of Cambridge wouldn't want to miss.
BY JACQUELINE DEMONTRAVEL

- 96** Shopping Guide
Where to find the products featured in this issue.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 6** xo
- 8** Letters to the Editors
- 10** So Pretty
- 96** Coming Next Month
- 98** Favorites

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XO



A STUDY Abroad

SOME MEMORIES COME IN GLIMPSES, clarified by a photograph or nostalgic piece. Others are so crisp they seem a natural extension of the every day: like the five months I spent studying in London during college.

The true lessons I learned were from assimilating into city life. As students we lived in flats with showers the size of barrels and junior-sized iceboxes to store daily produce from the farm stands on Portobello Road. I learned the importance of a good trench coat and enjoyed neighborhood pubs with names that were a cross between a children's storybook and a horror movie. Trains and cabs were elegant rides, shuttling us into a mode of transportation more suited for mannered times. But some days we missed the United States simply out of a desire to stretch out from the city's compact lifestyle.

During holiday weeks parents came to visit, which pulled us from our student budget doldrums with fancy meals and theater tickets. Once my friend's mother treated us to an afternoon tea and chose Brown's Hotel for its authenticity. I used the good shampoo and made an attempt with mascara—it was the most effort I ever made for tiered plates of pastries. The tearoom warmed us from the cold with its rich paneled wood and fireplace. We had a cozy booth perfectly designed for incognito tourists.

We began the meal by acting very proper, sitting up straight and applauding what the waiter served. By the end of the meal, the three of us slouched together in pyramid formation, drowsy from the food and excitement. We left sharing a moment. Though I am no longer in touch with many of the ladies I dined with, we are all connected through a shared experience. We were at the stage in life between little girls playing tea party and young woman paying utility bills. We were united in that elegant tearoom, which made us appreciate a ritual the British uphold on a daily basis. While tea and delicate sandwiches are always irresistible, it's even more about attention to enjoying friends in a proper forum.

XO,

Jacqueline T. deMontravel
Jacqueline deMontravel
Editor

Romantic HOMES

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YOURS TRULY...

Sharing a Treasured Piece

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I BOUGHT ANOTHER VERSION OF THE WALL PLAQUE PICTURED. I was working as a designer for a company called Sacksteder's Interiors located in Cincinnati, Ohio, where I bought the piece. The design was a modern version in a cream color and the material was foam.

While paying a visit to my home, a friend of mine fell in love with it. A couple of years later she experienced the tragic loss of her 10-year-old son.

Just before the loss of Adam, I had discovered that *Romantic Homes* used this beautiful plaque on the front cover of the August 2001 issue, in the cream color. I was so thrilled. So as a gesture of love and concern for my friend, I attached the cover of the issue, along with a personal note, to the back of the plaque. Then I gave one of my favored treasures to my broken-hearted friend.

As much as I loved the piece, it meant more to me to give it to her. I knew the likelihood of ever finding it again was rare. But, to my surprise, on the 4th of July 2014, I found another one in the most unlikely place.

I now own my own vintage resale business, The Love Letter and Vintage Finds. I was out and about with my husband hunting and searching for treasures to restock my business. While rummaging through a dusty, dirty barn sale, I found another version of this gorgeous plaque, almost 16 years later. The most amazing part is this version is vintage, full of amazing color and made of plaster.

I feel so blessed to have come across another one of these beautiful pieces. The age and colors of the piece are an amazing complement to my present home décor.

Thank you for so many years of enjoyable reading. I still look forward to every new issue I receive.

ANGEL RASPER
Maineville, OH



Share with us!

Romantic Homes loves to hear from you. Please write and tell us how we've inspired you or what you've done to decorate your home using our ideas. We are also happy to answer any questions you may have.

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THE WRITTEN WORD

Displaying your favorite books can help turn any space into a library.

BY DEVLIN SMITH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK TANNER

A HIGHLIGHT OF MANY HISTORIC HOME TOURS is the visit to the library, an impressive space lined with built-in bookshelves, each brimming with leather-bound classics. In this home, a quiet corner becomes the library, with well-worn books housed in a rustic cabinet.

THE CRACKED, FADED BOOKS are displayed in a variety of ways on the four shelves, some with spines hidden, others stacked vertically. Blue glass bottles, vintage artwork, shells and other pieces mix in with the books on the upper shelves. An armchair invites visitors to select a book and spend the afternoon reading.

USING BUILT-IN SHELVING, repurposed cabinetry or floating shelves will let you create a library in your home. Gather cookbooks in your kitchen, heirloom classics in the family room or art books in the den. Mix in pieces from your other collections, such as pitchers, teacups and artwork, or family photographs to add a personal touch.

EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS for your books, such as by color or size, as in this home. In bookstores, sometimes titles are shelved facing out, a trick you might want to try for books with embossed or illustrated covers.



we love | details

WHY WE LOVE IRONSTONE

Collecting ironstone does not have to be a stuffy affair—let your heart lead the way.

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED
BY GAY VAN BEEK



IN 1813, CHARLES J. MASON, of Staffordshire, England, patented ironstone. It does not in fact contain iron, but rather the mineral feldspar, which is the second most important ingredient, after clay, in making ceramics. It improves the strength and durability of the ceramic body.

Ironstone harkens back to the days when cooking meals over an open fire was commonplace; its durability reminds us that life was demanding, while its simplicity reminds us that our ancestors were too busy to focus on the style of their dinnerware.

When it comes to collecting ironstone, there are those who only collect white, others who only search out transferware and romantics who only look for floral patterns. No matter what you desire, rest assured that there is a multitude of ironstone to choose from in antiques markets all over the world. It's yours for the taking—but the prices can be steep if you are looking for perfection.

White ironstone has little official history in England because virtually all of it was made for export to Europe, Australia and the United States. By the 1830s, enterprising British potters recognized how attractive it would be to rural American families purchasing china for the first time and settlers who needed sturdy china and chamber sets. This snowy-white ironstone was marketed in the United States with the appeal of simplicity and affordability, values

**There are those who
only collect white,
others who only
search out transfer-
ware and romantics
who only look for
floral patterns.**





If you are looking for nice pieces with beautiful lines and are not picky about perfection, you can find ironstone in abundance and very reasonably priced.





that dominated the Americana lifestyle at the time.

Ironstone in pristine condition is highly sought-after by collectors everywhere and can therefore be very costly. But if you are looking for interesting pieces with beautiful lines and are not picky about perfection, you can find ironstone in abundance and very reasonably priced.

From gravy boats to platters, pitchers to covered tureens, the search for that perfect piece to balance a collection is limitless. Most casual collectors love the crazing and discoloration that come with age and use of vintage ironstone. The varying shades of white, cream and blue-white provide a narrative as to how often the piece was used.

Your ironstone collection will tell stories about its former life if you are willing to listen. Handle these pieces with care and they will remain perfectly imperfect, to pass along to the next generation of collectors in your family.

For more on Gay, visit canterburycottagedesigns.blogspot.com.



we love | personalize

FABRIC WIRE FLOWERS

Use these easy-to-make blossoms to adorn anything from napkin rings to gifts, or affix them to ribbon for a festive garland.

WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED AND STYLED BY AYDA ALGIN



MAKING YOUR OWN FABRIC FLOWERS IS GREAT. You can use them for lots of different projects, and they are more affordable to make than to buy. You can embellish tote bags, jackets, hair clips, headbands, packages, napkin rings and more. Make a unique brooch by gluing the finished product onto a pin back! They are perfectly sweet additions to table settings at bridal or baby showers, weddings, birthdays and tea parties.

Materials:

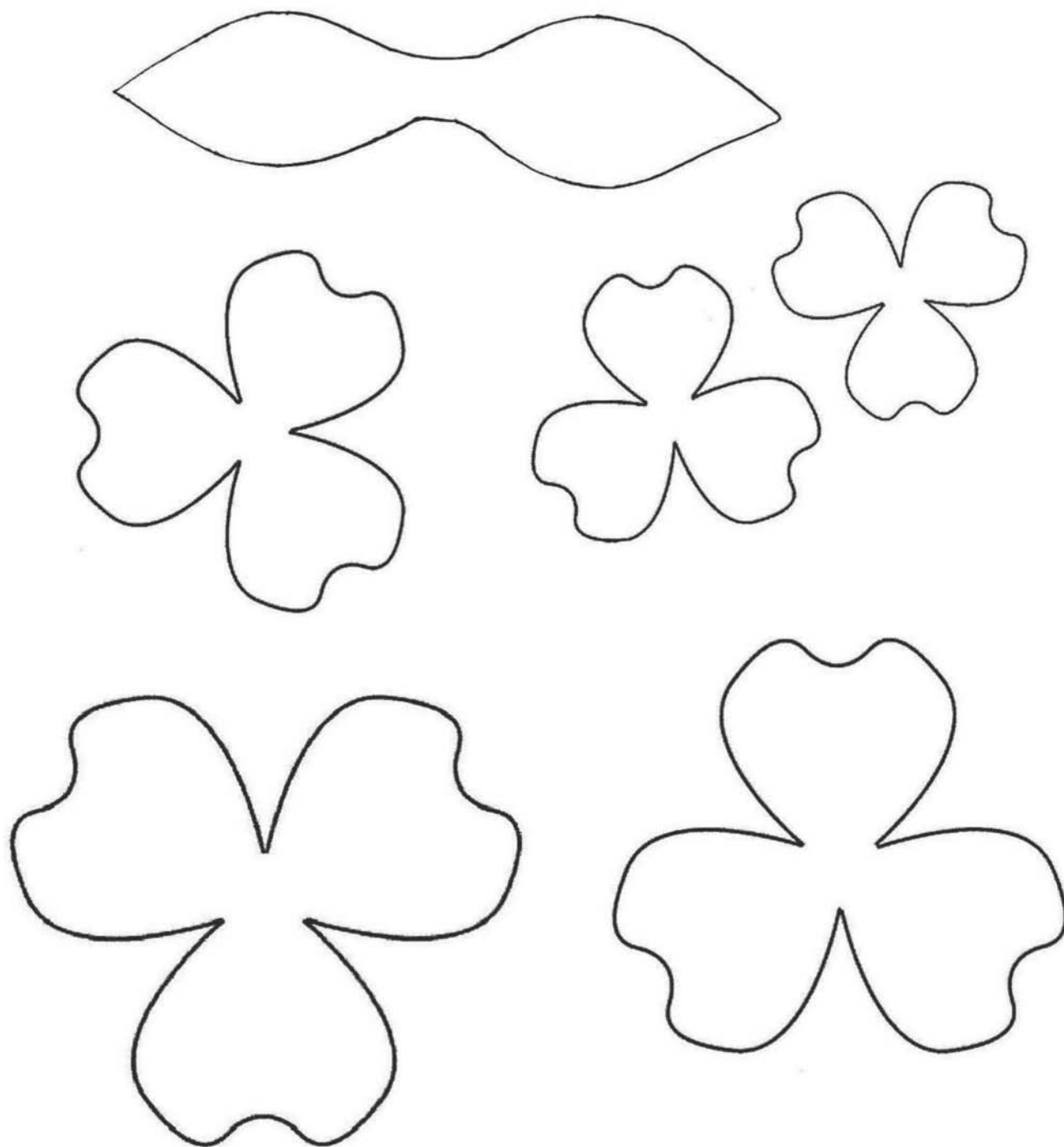
- Various fabrics
 - Fabric bond (or applique glue)
 - Fine wire
 - Thread
 - Scissors
 - Buttons or beads
 - Ribbons (optional)
-



Directions:

1. Choose a variety of patterned fabrics and cut out the number of flowers and leaves needed for each flower, as indicated on the templates (p.18).
 2. Pair two of the largest flower petal cutouts to be the bottom layer of the flower.
 3. Spread the fabric bond across these two fabric flower petals. Trim and twist the fine wire to create a "y" shape, and place it between the fabric petals before pressing the layers together.
 4. Repeat the same process for the leaves, trimming the wire to be just shy of the leaf's edge.
 5. You do not need to put fine wire between the smaller flower petals, unless you want to add extra dimension. If not using wire, for each layer simply attach two flower petals of matching size with glue.
-

Fabric Flower Template:

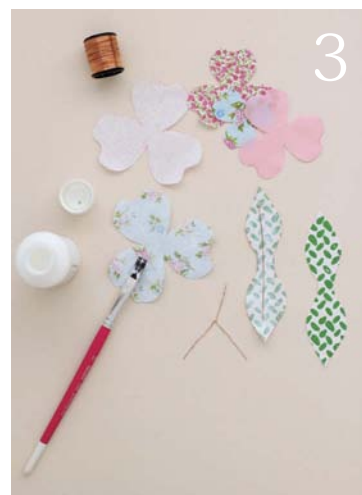


For more on Ayda, visit
cafenohut.com.

6. Allow the flower petals and leaves to dry.

7. Now it's time to bring together all the petals and leaves! Stitch or glue together each layer.

8. For the flowers' centers you can use anything from loose beads to lonely buttons or even a small earring. I stitched on buttons.



we love | make it

SIMPLE YET ARTISTIC TEA TOWELS

Looking for a way to add a little color and personality to your kitchen? Cute and crafty dishtowels can do the trick!

WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED AND STYLED BY AYDA ALGIN

Every kitchen needs dishtowels, and even with minimal sewing skills you can embellish them to add a personalized touch.



WHY NOT MAKE DISHTOWELS that are super cute and crafty? Add a pop of color to your kitchen while making a functional kitchen accessory, or create a sweet housewarming gift. This simple tutorial will get you started, but then get creative with your own unique patterns and color combinations.

Materials:

- Plain white fabric or plain tea towel
- Variety of patterned fabric scraps
- Fusible webbing
- Sharp scissors
- Pencil
- Iron
- Scrap piece of paper, optional
- Sewing machine, optional

Directions:

1. Begin with plain white fabric, approximately 14" x 20", or you can use an unembellished tea towel.

2. Place your patterned fabric scraps on the adhesive portion of the fusible webbing. Make sure your iron is on the cotton or linen setting and set it so there is plenty of steam. Iron the fabric and webbing slowly, following any package directions or warnings.

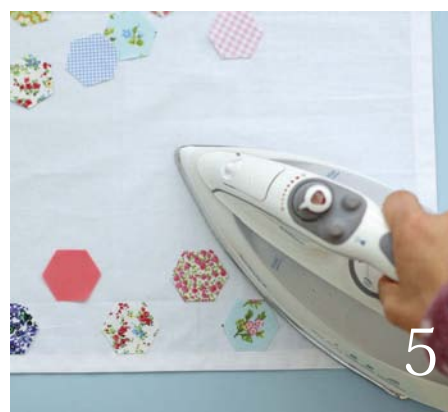
3. The other side of the fusible webbing will have paper that can be drawn on easily—it is transparent enough to see through. Create a hexagon template on your piece of scrap paper, cut it out and trace it onto the cooled fused fabric with a pencil.

4. Carefully cut out the shapes and create your design. Cluster the hexagon shapes to create a flower (using scraps as leaves), or scatter the hexagons for a fun abstract creation.

5. Once you are happy with your design, peel off the paper backing from each hexagon. After you remove the

paper, there will be a very thin layer of heat-sensitive glue remaining on the fabric. Iron your pattern onto the towel.

6. Finish the edge of the fabric on a sewing machine, or use thin strips of fusible webbing, running them along each edge. Or use your new towel without finishing, if you like.



For more on Ayda, visit cafenohut.com.

we love | sweet

GARDEN-INSPIRED TEATIME

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY
BARB BAMBER

Bring the flavor of spring to your next cup of tea by pairing it with the aromatic flavor of lavender—baked perfectly into a classic shortbread.



Lavender Shortbread

Ingredients:

- ½ cup powdered icing sugar
- 2 teaspoons dried lavender
- Zest of one lemon
- 1 cup butter, room temperature
- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- Lavender for garnish, optional
- Coarse sugar for garnish, optional





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Directions:

1. In a food processor, blend the powdered sugar, dried lavender and lemon zest until the lavender flowers and lemon are well minced.
2. In a mixing bowl fitted with a paddle attachment, add the butter and cream on medium speed. Add the powdered sugar mixture and blend. Then mix in the flour and salt just to combine.
3. Using your hands, press the dough inside the mixing bowl until a loose dough ball forms. Lay out two sheets of plastic wrap. Lift half of the mixture onto one sheet and shape it into a log about 4–5" long. Wrap the plastic around it, twist the ends, and use the warmth from your hands to shape and smooth the log further. Then refrigerate it for a minimum of 3 hours.
4. Preheat the oven to 375°F.
5. Slice the chilled dough into ¼" slices. If desired, roll or sprinkle them in sugar. I rolled the edges to get a different look.
6. Bake for 13–15 minutes. Remove the shortbread from the oven and cool it on a wire rack. Add additional sugar as desired.



Lavender Lemon Rolled Shortbread

Ingredients:

- ½ cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons dried lavender flowers
- 2 tablespoons fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- Zest from one lemon
- Coarse sugar for garnish, optional

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
2. Use a mixer fitted with a paddle attachment set to medium speed to cream the butter until soft. Add ¼ cup sugar and blend.
3. In a medium-sized bowl, mix the flour, cornstarch and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture, and then blend it on a low speed until the ingredients are almost incorporated.
4. Use a mortar and pestle to crush the lavender. Add the lavender to the dough, sprinkle it over the lemon zest and juice, and then mix until the dough starts coming together. Stop the mixer. In the mixing bowl, use your hands to work the dough together.
5. Dust your counter with flour and turn the dough onto it. Gently press the dough together until it becomes pliant and workable.
6. Place a silicone baking mat on a clean work surface. Use a rolling pin to roll the dough into a slightly less than



$\frac{1}{4}$ " thick 8" x 10" rectangle. Straighten the ends and sides with your hands so a perfect rectangle is formed. I then used my special butter rolling pin to mark lines in the cookie dough for cutting later. You can also use any sharp knife and a straight edge to score the dough. Sprinkle it with regular or coarse sugar.

7. Lift the dough and mat onto a cookie sheet.

8. Bake for 10–15 minutes, until the dough is golden and very lightly browned. Remove the pan from the oven and sprinkle additional sugar. Use a sharp knife to gently cut through the scored dough to make squares. Be careful not to cut through the silicone mat.

9. Allow the cookies to cool in the pan; then move them to a wire rack to finish cooling.

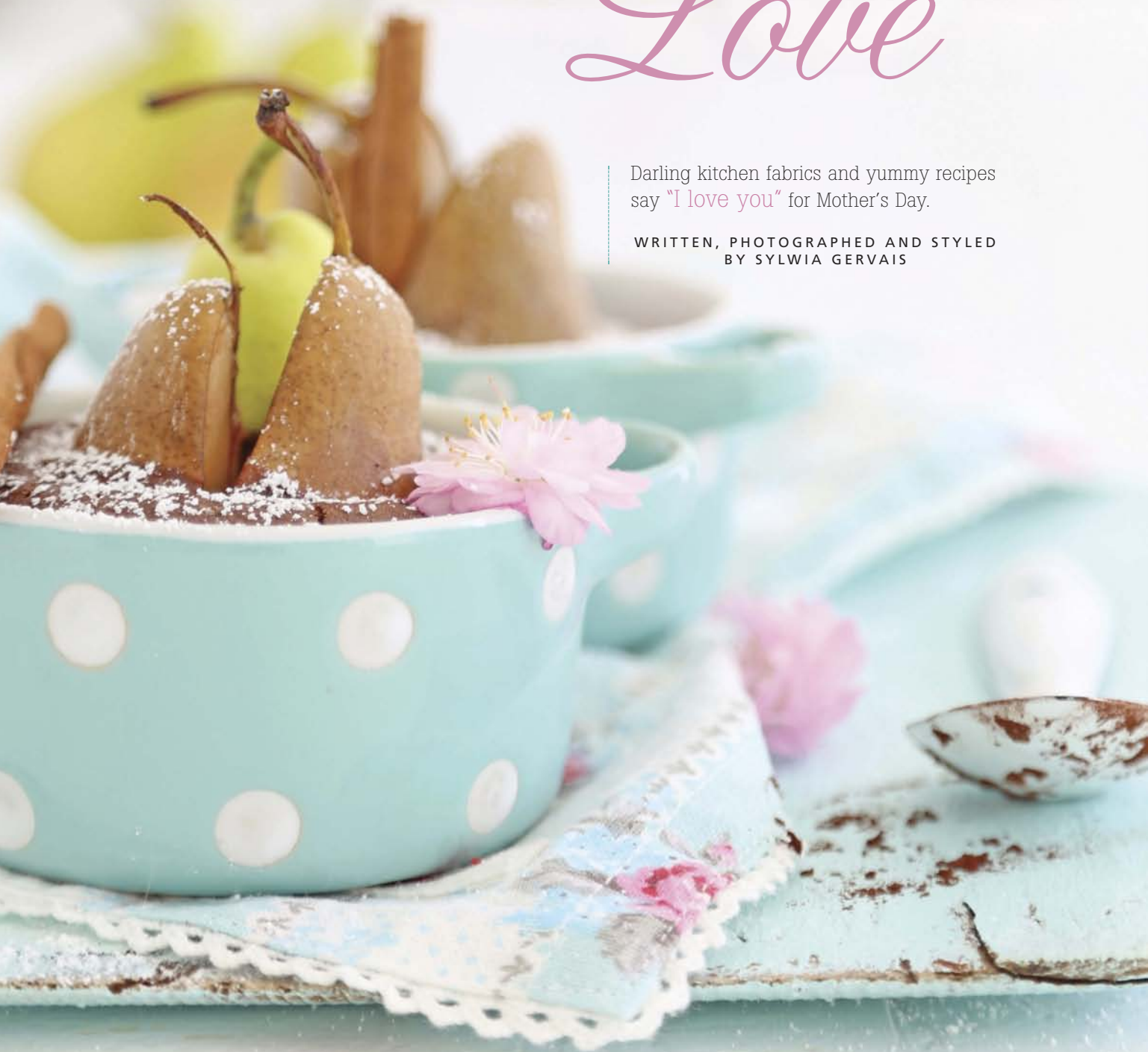


we love | happy kitchen

Handmade with *Love*

Darling kitchen fabrics and yummy recipes
say "I love you" for Mother's Day.

WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED AND STYLED
BY SYLVIA GERVAIS



MOTHER'S DAY IS A SPECIAL DAY when we show our moms how much we love and appreciate them. I like to give my mom handcrafted little gifts made with love and homemade cakes and treats, such as these crafts and recipes.

Recycled Vintage Fabric Place Mats

My mom especially loves kitchen accessories. The kitchen is the room in her house that she spends the most time in. It's where we all meet, eat, laugh and simply enjoy our time together. The kitchen is the heart of my parents' home. My family is passionate about recycling, so a Mother's Day gift made from recycled materials is more than welcome.

You'll need pretty fabrics, scissors, pins and sewing materials for these place mats.





What you'll do:

1. Rip the fabric into 1-cm-wide strips. You'll need three strips for each braided piece.
2. You can either use your sewing machine to finish the braiding or hand sew the ends of each braid.
3. Wind the braided pieces together, one after another, into a circle, and fasten them with pins.
4. Hand sew the pieces together and you're done.



"A Mother's Day gift made from recycled materials is more than welcome."



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Granny-Square Kitchen Towel

I had some granny squares left over from a blanket, so I decided to make a cute kitchen towel for my mom. The granny pieces are made of cotton yarn, so they can easily be used in a kitchen towel. I sewed all the pieces together and made a little hook in one of the corners, so my mom could hang it nicely. She loves it!



Knitted Kitchen Towel

Another cute idea for a kitchen towel is to knit one. Of course you can buy beautiful kitchen towels in the stores, but there is nothing nicer than a pretty hand-made gift that is also practical. For a decent-sized towel make sure to have 30 loops and about the same number of rows. To add an extra-cute accent, cut a piece of patterned fabric and sew it on top of the towel.





we love | happy kitchen





Upside-Down Apple Cake

Ingredients

Apple Mixture:

- 2 or 3 apples
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup light brown sugar
- 1 scant teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 tablespoons melted butter

Cake:

- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter, room temperature
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk

1. Preheat the oven to 325°F. Butter a cake pan or baking dish or spray one with baking spray. Wash the apples and cut them into slices (see picture).
2. Combine the apple slices with the brown sugar, ground cinnamon and melted butter.
3. Put the apple mixture in the prepared baking pan.
4. Combine the flour, salt, baking powder and 1 teaspoon cinnamon in a bowl.
5. In a large mixing bowl with an electric mixer, beat the butter with the sugar until light and fluffy.
6. Beat in the eggs and vanilla extract.
7. Add the flour mixture to the wet mixture, alternating with the milk, beating just until blended.
8. Spoon the batter evenly over the apple slices, gently spreading to cover.
9. Bake for 55 to 65 minutes if using a regular cake pan or about 30 minutes if using a smaller baking dish, or until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cake comes out clean.
10. Invert the hot cake onto a platter or cake plate and let it cool.
11. Sprinkle the cake with powdered sugar.



Peeping Pear Cakes

Makes **6 desserts**

Ingredients

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup flour
- 1 tablespoon dark cocoa powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 fresh eggs
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup milk
- 6 small pears
- cinnamon powder

1. Preheat the oven to 320°F and grease six casserole dishes.
2. Cream the eggs and sugar in a bowl.
3. Add the oil and milk, and whisk.
4. Mix the flour, cocoa, a bit of cinnamon powder and baking powder, and slowly add it to the egg mixture, whisking until smooth.
5. Wash and dry the pears; then cut them in halves and take out the seeds.
6. Place each pear half in a casserole dish, and pour the dough over it until the dish is two-thirds full.
7. Bake the casseroles for 25 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.
8. Decorate with cinnamon and fresh pear pieces.



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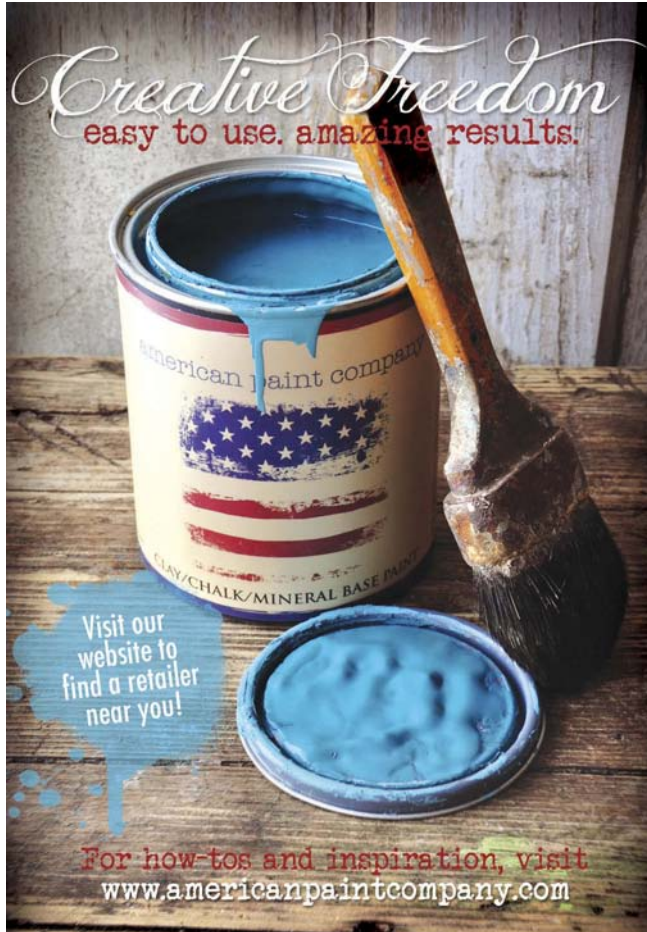
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Spring Cleaning Reverie

WHEN I THINK OF WHAT I LOVE, it's the memories. I have just completed cleaning my itty-bitty house and it's spotless. It took half the day and it wasn't even messy, so I had to stop and ask myself, "How in the heck did I do it when I had a house twice the size, five kids and a husband at home?" The simple answer is I didn't! I had different priorities and I didn't sweat the small stuff.

I hope when my kids look back they don't think about how clean the bathroom was (or wasn't), but they remember what we did instead of cleaning. Like piling into the hooptie and heading to Rat Beach every day. Or riding skateboards at Torrance High before they put fences up to keep us out and students in. Or jumping in the car and racing to Carson because we could see the Goodyear Blimp coming in for a landing and we just had to beat it. Or maybe meeting Dad at the beach after he got off work for an impromptu dinner picnic. What about the great friends we shared park days with? Surely my kids don't remember them having spotless homes either. And then there are the emergency room visits: so many bumps, bruises, breaks and stitches with five kids and one husband.

We lived in Torrance, California, back then. It was a fun, noisy neighborhood with kids in every home. They mostly gathered at our house, though, because we had a trampoline and half-pipe in the backyard and, I like to think, a cool mom.

So much has changed, as it should. My kids are all grown with kids of their own, my husband passed away in 2004, I sold my Torrance home and I bought my itty-bitty dream home in Paso Robles, California. Yes, it is spotless, and while I love it that way, it still isn't my first priority. I will have 18 grandchildren before the end of the year. They are my priority now and the new memories we're making together. Whenever I visit with 6-year-old Amelia she asks me to tell her stories of when her mama and her aunt and uncles were small. I never run out of stories for her; I just reach into my precious memories. Now I have plenty of time to clean, but if the grandkids want me to come out and play, well, a little dust isn't going to hurt anything.

KATHLEEN ROSSIER
Submitted via email



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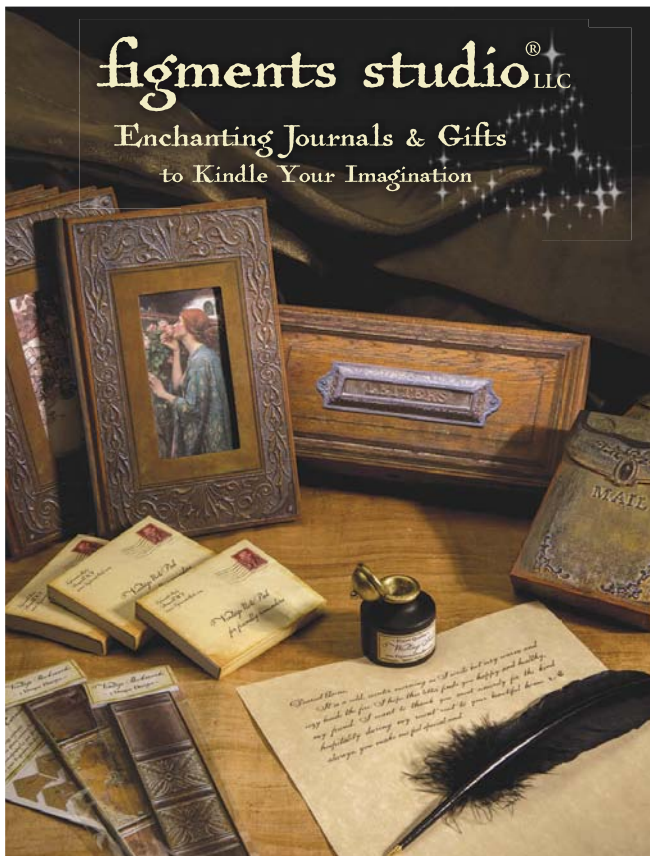
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White & Faded

Join London designer Janet Parrella-van den Berg on a journey of memories and discovery as she shares her passion for travel, white living and faded antiques.

BY JO-ANNE COLETTI
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JANET PARRELLA-VAN DEN BERG





JANET PARRELLA-VAN DEN BERG'S EARLY CHILDHOOD WAS spent in Holland, where she made intricate little drawings of how she wanted her room to look. She remembers accompanying her parents on frequent trips to antiques fairs, scouring for treasures to decorate her space. That was the beginning of her passion for interior design and appreciation for softly faded items.

"My passion for antiques and handmade items was probably inevitable," says Janet. "I am convinced my parents and I must have explored every antiques shop across France and England!"

Janet's parents recognized her special talent for design and invested in a sewing machine, where her mother lovingly spent time teaching her how to sew.

Her sewing skills came in handy when she moved into her first flat. Tight finances turned into opportunity for creativity, and Janet fashioned her own curtains, lampshades, cushions, slipcovers and even rugs. She discovered the budget-friendly magic of painting furniture white and bringing neglected secondhand cupboards and chairs back to life.





“I have always been moved by beautiful things. Even as a young girl, I instinctively yearned to make old things attractive once again, to revive them with renewed beauty.”



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“I live contentedly in my all-white interior. While the textures change frequently, the color palette remains constant.”

A gypsy explorer by nature, Janet could fill a book with the many places she has lived around the globe: Holland, England, Australia, Switzerland and the United States—where she discovered the art of American quilts. She taught herself how to make patchwork quilts and crafts her own line of vintage-style throws and blankets. Janet prefers faded colors and likes to decorate with quilts by stacking them on wardrobes, chairs and draping them over beds.

After a few years in the United States, Janet was surprised and delighted by the unexpected opportunity to move to England. “My parents had taken me to visit London and the English countryside when I was just eleven, and I had instantly fallen in love with the beautiful little streets, shops, cottages and gardens. I had promised myself that I would live there one day,” says Janet.



That day arrived in 2013. With a newly purchased home, she and her new husband began painting everything white: the wooden floors, walls, cupboards, picture frames—everything. They filled the house with white gossamer curtains, squishy white sofas and Janet's beloved treasures. Janet believes the color white brings peace and calm to one's spirit and brings out the true colors in other objects around the room. "As the seasons change, the shifting light gently pulls out soft pinks, blues and yellows from within the heart of white fabrics and surfaces. These natural hues are all the color I need to inspire me," says Janet.

Not long after moving into her new home, she started work on a project that would later grow into her own design business, White & Faded. Now Janet has designed her own line of fabric and wall-paper that complements the look of the delicately used, beautiful antique elements found throughout her home.

"I am sometimes asked for a precise definition of White & Faded, yet it is so many things: the passionate treasure hunt for unique items, the search after lost beauty, and the potential for restoration and glory. It is the impulse to rescue unloved items and make them desirable once again, the sense of euphoria as furniture is brought back to life with a few layers of fresh paint. It is the gentle thrill of seeing old quilts revived, antique chairs reupholstered and new cushions upgraded with gorgeous, sensuous vintage fabrics," says Janet.

Today Janet's love for antiques and the English countryside have come full circle. A life, like hers, that celebrates extraordinary beauty is the very essence of White & Faded living.

For more on Janet, visit:
whiteandfaded.co.uk.

we love | ta da

Celebrating *Easter*

Set a spring-inspired brunch table
perfect for rejoicing with loved ones.

BY DIANE SEDO
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JICKIE TORRES



AS I WAS GETTING OUT MY EASTER dishes this year I thought, “Who doesn’t love a holiday that celebrates bunnies, flowers and renewal?” Easter in the Sedo household is colorful, sentimental and fun. The antique farm table in my vintage kitchen is the most convivial spot for our celebration. My Easter brunch is focused on a few things: a vintage element, delicious treats and celebrating with those I love.

THE TABLE SETTING

I always bring representations from past generations to our gatherings. I was musing on why we cherish passed-down dishes, even the humbler ones, and came to the idea that people want connection—and celebrations can provide that connection.

When I sit at the table I am reminded of the countless hours my mother and I spent at flea markets and antiques stores hunting for the patterns we each collected. A colorful vintage tablecloth rests perfectly beneath my mother’s coordinating green Depression glass dishes. I placed a white dinner napkin between the charger and the Depression glass plate. My grandmother’s luncheon-sized cutlery, Edwardian water glasses and serving pieces date back to a more thoughtful time.

ADDING VINTAGE DECORATIONS

A large vintage papier-mâché Easter egg embellished with flowers and ribbons, an Easter basket filled with honeycomb eggs, a tall chocolate Easter Bunny and a vintage papier-mâché bunny are all whimsical additions to our setting.



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I always bring representations from past generations to our gatherings.



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I wanted these decadent cookies to have a starring role on my table too. Exquisite works of art, the Easter bunny sugar cookies are individually hand made by Clairmarie Kelly of SugarPlum Tea Sweets. They are decorated with royal icing, embellished with ribbons and flowers and placed on each plate.

I finished off the decorations with romantic embellishments such as my butterfly jam and butter dishes, mementos from my honeymoon in Carmel, California. One is placed at each place setting. The egg-shaped decorated sugar cubes are almost too pretty to use.

THE DESSERT BUFFET

The cake, baked in a 1925 Swans Down cake pan and seated on an antique pedestal cake stand, is adorned with an edible bouquet of fresh, colorful flowers from Gourmet Sweet Botanicals. Tiny two-bite cupcakes, lemon bars and mini cream puffs are made all the more enticing when topped with pansies, violas and mustard flowers. An antique, silver-plated cart holds coconut “bunny tails”—little cake balls rolled in coconut to resemble fluffy bunny tails.





THE MENU

Bunny finger sandwiches, cut with a cookie cutter, are a favorite of the youngest children. I serve them with lettuce frill, tiny carrots, radishes and herb flowers for color.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.



Contributing editor Diane Sedo

is co-author of *Taking Tea with Alice* (Warner Books 1997 and Benjamin Press 2007). She is a certified instructor of Dorothea Johnson's Tea & Etiquette Program (Elmwood Inn Fine Teas). Follow her two Facebook pages: Sentimental Celebrations and Tea Cups and Cupcakes.

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BY JACQUELINE DEMONTRAVEL



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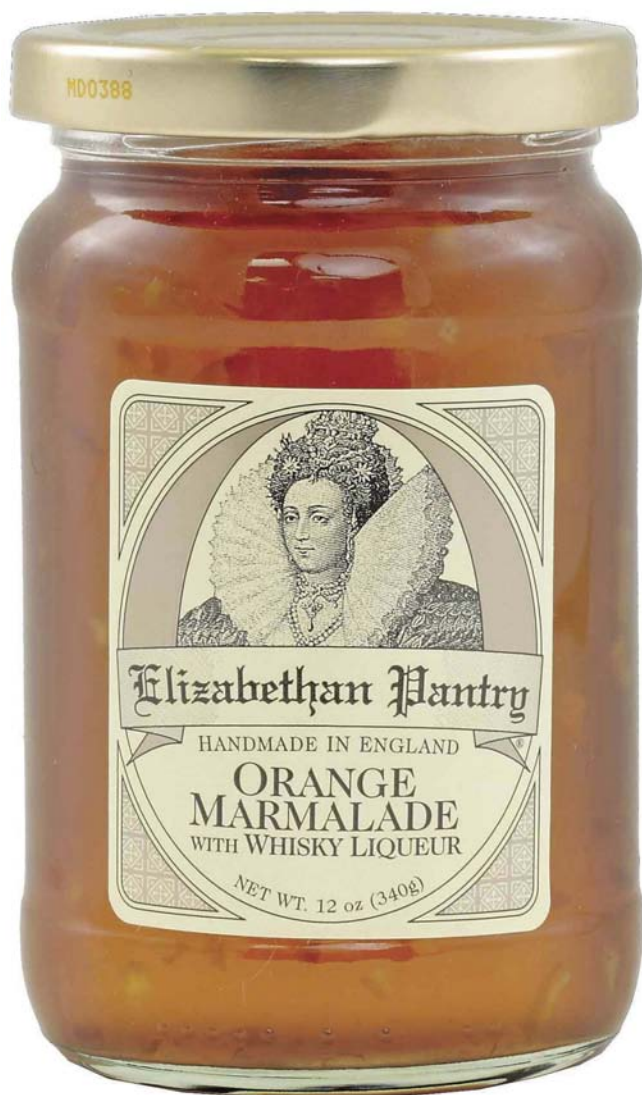
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British Teatime

A definitive guide to this
timeless tradition

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY
JACQUELINE DEMONTRAVEL



FROM THE COUNTRY THAT CURT-SIES UPON greeting and enjoys a spirited game of darts, British teatime also endures. The United Kingdom's history with tea dates back to the 17th century. There was smuggling of tea and famous battles over its trade. Tea also ignited such offshoot industries as dainty porcelain and silver tea sets.

Teatime began in the mid-1600s as a ritual for the upper classes only, due to the high cost of tea. The lady of the house handled the tea leaves so that a servant would not spill them. The event occurred in the afternoon, sometime between a rich lunch and light dinner, to provide energy until supper.

Tea was typically made from loose tea brewed in a pot, poured over a strainer, accompanied by milk and sugar. Light finger sandwiches—with egg, cucumber or meats—were served, along with biscuits and scones with jam, and clotted cream. Afternoon tea was created as an opportunity for ladies to gather, relax and socialize in a mannered atmosphere.

Over the centuries, teatime has become more relaxed, just as the formalities of corsets, wigs and other hair artistry have loosened. A mix-match of serving ware, easy-to-prepare foods and tea bags have taken the trend into the modern day, though a traditional ritual will always be welcome.

Opposite: Offer lighter, healthier options such as fruit, crudités and sandwiches made with low-fat cheese.

Top Right: Serve a variety of sweeteners besides white sugar, such as brown sugar, honey or agave nectar.

Bottom Right: A rose chintz blue teacup that was a gift to Jacqueline works well with other classic items.





Above: Also a gift, the teapot weaves in a sentimental touch.

Right: A homemade item is a thoughtful addition, even something as simple as spiced bread or favorite cookies.

The Etiquette of Tea

Jacqueline shares her tips.

1. Dress nicely but not too formally.
 2. Begin by placing the napkin on your lap.
 3. Follow the lead of the hostess, who may want to practice the custom of serving her guests. Otherwise pour the tea and milk, and sweeten your tea last.
 4. Stir your tea counterclockwise, and leave the spoon on the outer side of the saucer.
 5. Set your plate with sandwiches. When you're finished with them, select your sweets.
-



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Styles of Teatime

ELEVENSES: Derived from 11:00, elevenses is a late-morning tea accompanied by a small snack or treat.

CREAM TEA: This tea served with scones and clotted cream.

TEDDY BEAR TEA: A luxury hotel favorite, this tea is attended by ladies in training with their favorite teddy bear, and typically they donate a toy to charity.

STRAWBERRY TEA: The strawberry tea was thought to be created during strawberry season. The berries are put in the tea, and foods made with strawberries are served.

ROYAL TEA: This tea is accompanied by champagne.



When to Milk It

Whether to pour the milk in before or after the tea has been an endless debate. The higher classes were thought to pour the milk after, because their fine porcelain could withstand the tea's hot temperatures. George Orwell seconded this assessment: "One can exactly regulate the amount of milk, whereas one is liable to put in too much milk if one does it the other way round."



Above: Pink pedestal plates add scale to the table while also bringing a modern, romantic look.

Tea or High Tea?

AFTERNOON TEA

Lovely table settings with pastries so pretty they make ladies giggle and clap are the basis of an afternoon or "low tea." Tea is a light meal served in the mid- to late-afternoon, derived from when the upper classes had the leisure and means to afford a late-day repose.

HIGH TEA

A common misconception is that high tea is the elegant tea party version of teatime. In reality, it originated for the working classes as an end-of-the-day full meal with tea. High tea is also called "meat tea" because of its hearty dishes like kidney pies, fish and substantial sides.





Romancing THE HOME

A Virginia family's house brims
with inherited heirlooms and
fresh furnishings.

WRITTEN AND STYLED BY
CHARLOTTE SAFAVI
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT RADIFERA



“**T**O ME, HOME IS WHERE the story of life takes place,” says interior designer Alex Deringer. She and her business partner, Courtney Cox, started the decorating firm Ivy Lane Living and, with it, home design and accessories boutiques in the heart of Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia.

Not that long ago, Alex fell in love with a 1912 farmhouse and its two-acre parcel of land in the city of Alexandria. It was perfect, not just for its prime location, but for her growing family. She is married with three children. Her life for the next few years was consumed with making the farmhouse into a home.

“We kept the footprint of the front rooms—the foyer, the parlor, the library and the kitchen—but gutted the rest and added on extensively to the back,” recalls Alex.







She worked with McLean-based architect Thomas French and local landscape designer Susanne Fyffe to build a seamless indoor-outdoor connection, where the new dining room, with sparkling glass all around, and added-on family room, with its rustic beamed ceiling and French doors, open onto a beautifully landscaped garden. Above, a master bedroom and bathroom suite took form. Case openings throughout were enlarged or created for optimal flow for the active family and for entertaining.

Alex then began her decorating, with the overall approach that “layering within a house is what makes it a home, all those stories and mementos, chronicling your family history.”

Both Alex and her husband had inherited lots of antique furnishings: larger pieces of furniture like the corner cupboards in the dining room, as well as smaller items like silver, porcelain and art. For Alex, the key was to use these meaningful elements without letting her space feel super-traditional or fussy. “I mixed in

Above: Silk window treatments filter sunlight in the slightly formal room. An antique sideboard in the dining room, which is open to the family room and butler’s pantry, holds a collection of both heirloom and new plates, vases and ginger jars.

Left: Heirloom silver and china are casually stacked.





contemporary pieces where I could,” she says.

The resulting home has a soft powdery palette of blue, oat and cream punctuated with some warmer hues, with plenty of metallic and mirrored accents, such as a trellis wallpaper with sheen and a gold gilt picture frame. The look is tailored and transitional, yet romantic, with ties to times gone by.

“My master suite is the most intimate and romantic place in my home,” says Alex. “I know that sounds a bit clichéd. But this room changes with the seasons the most since it’s perched three stories high, like a treehouse with a bird’s-eye view. I have furniture specifically placed to enjoy the splendor of the seasons and romanticize about life past, present and future. From this vantage point, things look brighter. It’s truly my happy place!”

Alex’s Heirloom Tips

Working with family heirlooms while keeping things fresh is something Alex does very well. Bring her style home with these helpful hints:

1. **USE CONTEMPORARY LIGHTING:** Think sconces, chandeliers, as well as table and standing lamps.
 2. **INSTEAD OF SETTING A FANCY FORMAL TABLE,** stack and layer fine china and antique silverware for parties.
 3. **DON'T USE DOILIES OR TABLECLOTHS.** Instead, try runners or use bare tabletops.
 4. **MIX IN NEWER PIECES** with a collection of older items like blue-and-white porcelain.
 5. **HANG CONTEMPORARY ART** along with old gilt-framed paintings.
 6. **KEEP UPHOLSTERED PIECES** to balance antique wood pieces.
 7. **ACCENT WITH LAYERED PILLOWS** in contemporary textures, colors and patterns.
 8. **NEW CARPETS AND FRESH PAINT COLORS PACK A PUNCH.** Be transitional in your overall approach, not traditional.
 9. **JUXTAPOSE NEW AND OLD FURNISHINGS,** such as a new umbrella stand or modern art with an antique chest in a foyer.
-



Above: Freshly upholstered and slipcovered dining chairs pair well with an antique dining table and a pair of corner cabinets handed down through the family.

Left: A pretty gold bar cart holds vintage martini shakers and glass champagne buckets as well as a vase of pink roses.



A crisp-painted white kitchen has a cutout opening onto the butler's pantry. The dining room lies beyond. The kitchen backsplash is antique-mirrored for a hint of glamour.

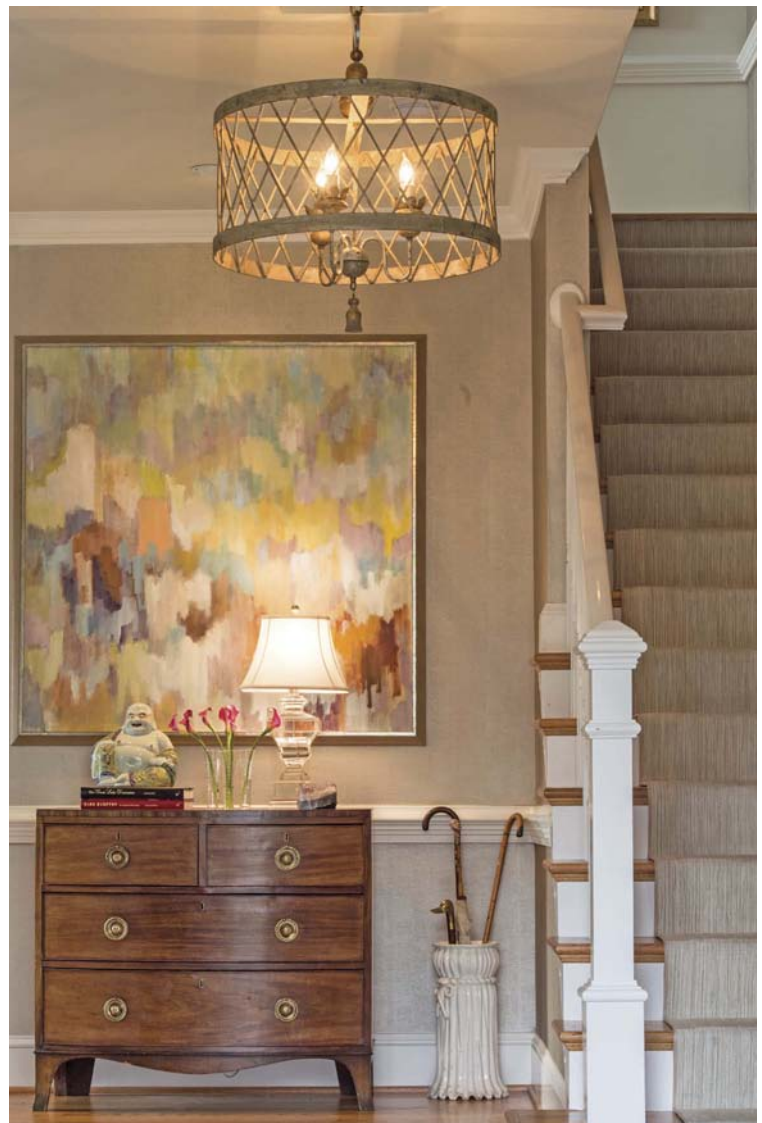


The new master bedroom also has a beautiful vaulted ceiling and plaid silk curtains, as well as a glamorous circle-design mirrored standing lamp and a comfortable armchair for lounging.

Other sophisticated-casual spaces in the home include the much-used family room, with its built-in study desks and bookshelves for the children, many seating options, fireplace and French doors that let in lots of light and fresh air.

“My house always keeps evolving,” adds Alex. “I like to switch out texture, color and pattern in home accents with the seasons. I find it’s more interesting for my own family and the friends that we invite to share in our lives.”

Right: A drum-frame chandelier is a modern element in the foyer, which has an antique chest of drawers serving as an entry table.





Opposite: A trellis-patterned carpet, a large potted plant, and a bank of French doors and windows bring an outdoors element into the charming “treehouse” bedroom with a balcony.

Left: The master bathroom has a beautiful dressing table for Alex to one side, where she keeps her makeup and jewelry.

For more on Alex, visit
ivyaneliving.com.



Home on the FARM



With a light feminine touch and an eye for the eclectic, this homeowner has added charm and individuality to her family's farmhouse.

WRITTEN AND STYLED BY SHARON PARSONS/ NARRATIVES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD GADSBY/NARRATIVES



F

OUR YEARS AGO CAROLINE

Cowan knew exactly how she wanted the farmhouse to look that she and husband Rob bought. Despite having to convince Rob of the look, Caroline envisioned a pretty, rustic, shabby-elegant-inspired design. “We’ve always compromised on decor, but I was so sure of the look I wanted to achieve that this time I wouldn’t be moved,” Caroline says. Their home now has a sugared-almond color scheme and is filled with cheerful florals and vintage finds.

Perhaps one of the reasons her husband of 27 years agreed to let Caroline take charge of the 18th-century farmhouse’s décor was because the style she so confidently envisaged formed the basis of a much bigger plan. The Cowan family farmhouse is far more than just a home—the 22-acre farm near



Opposite: Caroline’s pretty terrace is filled with blooming plants and flowers in pots, pails and planters.

“It’s small, cozy and pretty—and because we have lots of outside space and other farm buildings, there’s always somewhere to escape to if the house gets a bit crowded.”





Tenterden in Kent has a stylish new additional purpose.

“We wanted to find a farmhouse, out-buildings and land that would allow us not only to keep livestock but incorporate other ideas we had too. Most importantly, we wanted to establish a rural wedding venue,” Caroline says. “The idea was to create a nostalgic ‘Darling Buds of May’ ambience in complete contrast to smart, formal celebrations—so my ideas for a home that also embodied that approach seemed to make sense.”

Five years ago, however, the overall concept was just a dream. “We were living in another farmhouse in Sussex, which we loved, but it didn’t have enough land to allow us to develop our ideas,” she says. “Our three daughters were growing up, and we thought this would be a good time to try something new.”

Frequent visits to the area had the couple keen to relocate to rural Kent. At first, however, finding a property that ticked all the right boxes didn’t yield much at all, and they were beginning to wonder if they’d ever find what they wanted.

However, when they got an offer on their property, the couple decided to take a chance. They sold and moved into rented accommodations, hoping against hope that something would come along. Just a few months later they heard of a farm that had been owned by the same family for over 100 years. “As soon as we went to see it, we were excited,” Caroline says. “It had everything we were looking for in terms of business potential—the whole place had something special about it.”

The farm did indeed tick almost all the boxes. There was land to breed livestock and grow their own fruit and vegetables, two fishing ponds, various barns and out-buildings for their planned enterprise and peaceful spots to offer camping. There was also the farmhouse itself, with its 1799 date chiseled above the door and



wealth of features full of character—from crooked beams and stone floors to intriguing nooks and crannies.

The only downside was that, though structurally sound, the farmhouse itself was smaller than they'd hoped. Undeterred, they went ahead with the purchase and once the farm became theirs, the couple applied for permission to extend it. Unfortunately, the application was turned down. "We were obviously disappointed, but decided to make the most of what we had," Caroline says.

By this time, only one of their three daughters was living at home. Caroline's solution to finding space on the occasions when more of the family congregated was to set up a charming vintage trailer next to the farm. Their daughters decorated its interior, making it a comfortable and inviting guest space they love staying in when at home.

With family accommodations resolved, the couple could now concentrate on the renovations needed to prepare the farmhouse for living and business. Rob converted one of the barns for the family to stay in while the 18 month-long renovations took place. "It really helped that Rob is from a building family, so he could take on a lot of the work himself," Caroline says. This included designing and building the new kitchen, laying oak flooring,



Top left: A battered leather chair

sits by the original inglenook fireplace, which houses a wood-burning stove. The textural contrast is perfectly suited for the soft room.

Bottom left: An old white telephone

has pride of place on a bookshelf housing Caroline's collection of decorating style and gardening books.

The cozy sitting room with its eclectic mix of furnishings, plump cushions and gentle color scheme offers the perfect place to curl up and relax.





Top left: A charming mix of old china—mostly picked up at vintage markets—is displayed in an old wooden dresser. The lilac and white teacups were part of a set presented to Rob's father when he retired from the police force, and the soup tureen was a gift from Caroline's mother.

Bottom left: The dining area has been cleverly created with mismatched furniture, all painted by Caroline in different pastel shades, along with a treasured mix of vintage finds including a Lloyd Loom chair found in an antiques shop.

Opposite: The charming kitchen, designed and built by Rob, has a genuine farmhouse feel thanks to its exposed brick walls, quarry-tiled floor and pitched roof. A low false ceiling was removed to give the room more height and character. The couple restored the glass-fronted cupboards after finding them in the farm's garages.





creating another fireplace in the sitting room and replacing the pink bathroom suite with luxury fittings set against tongue-and-groove paneling.

Once the house had been completed, Caroline had a fresh canvas to work with and could finally bring her stylish decorating ideas to life. Working with a palette based mainly on pinks, blues and soft greens, she created an overall sense of nostalgic comfort throughout. “We already had some furniture and soft furnishings that worked. We sold some of the more modern pieces, and I painted a lot of the wooden furniture we had,” Caroline says. “I also scoured local antiques shops and vintage fairs, picking up all sorts of odds and ends. I avoided anything that looked too polished or ‘finished’; even the kitchen cabinets have been largely recycled.”

Outside, the couple’s other plans took shape. Along with the converted barn next door, a rustic shack was erected by one of the two ponds for fishing events, an open-sided barn was repaired and a canvas marquee added for wedding parties and other celebrations. Just like the farmhouse, the terrace and garden are now home to delightful displays of rustic finds.

Four years after purchasing, Brick House Farm is everything the couple had hoped for, with a gentle, timeless ambience that family, friends and guests love. “In this fast-paced world, I like to think we’ve created a real retreat—somewhere that is relaxing, welcoming and comfortable,” Caroline says.



Top left: Caroline is a keen cook and does most of the catering for the weddings and events held on the farm.

Bottom left: Caroline’s eclectic mix of old and new china is used in her catering. Much of it has been given to her by her mother, also a great collector, or found in vintage shops and markets.

Opposite: The dining room is light and airy, thanks to French doors that lead out to the garden. The rush-seated chairs were lined up outside a neighbor’s house, and the couple paid \$30 for the set.



“Even when the weather’s bad, the surroundings make this the most perfect place to wake up. Nothing beats seeing our five geese waddling one after another under the apple trees or beside the ponds.”





Opposite: In Rob and Caroline's bedroom, a bright bedspread covers a cozy down comforter—making the space a warm and welcoming retreat. Vintage furnishings, such as an old rocking chair and a dresser turned bedside table, underpin its nostalgic appeal.

Top right: The bedroom of Caroline and Rob's youngest daughter, Maisie, is nostalgic and pretty, thanks to the cheerful floral wallpaper and bedspread. The bold-colored throw pillows give it youthful charm.

Bottom right: The bathroom has been given a new lease on life with country-style tongue-and-groove paneling, a luxurious clawfoot tub and useful shelving perfect for displaying everyday essentials and fun finds.



pages

WORK OF ART

Bring the elegance of the garden to your coffee table with a stunning book.

BY JACQUELINE DEMONTRAVEL
PHOTOS COURTESY OF YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Flora Illustrata is a book that absorbs you even before you open the handsome cover with an image of a brilliantly illustrated tulip. The book celebrates the holdings of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library of the New York Botanical Garden, which houses one of the most extensive collections of archival documents on plants and gardens in the world.

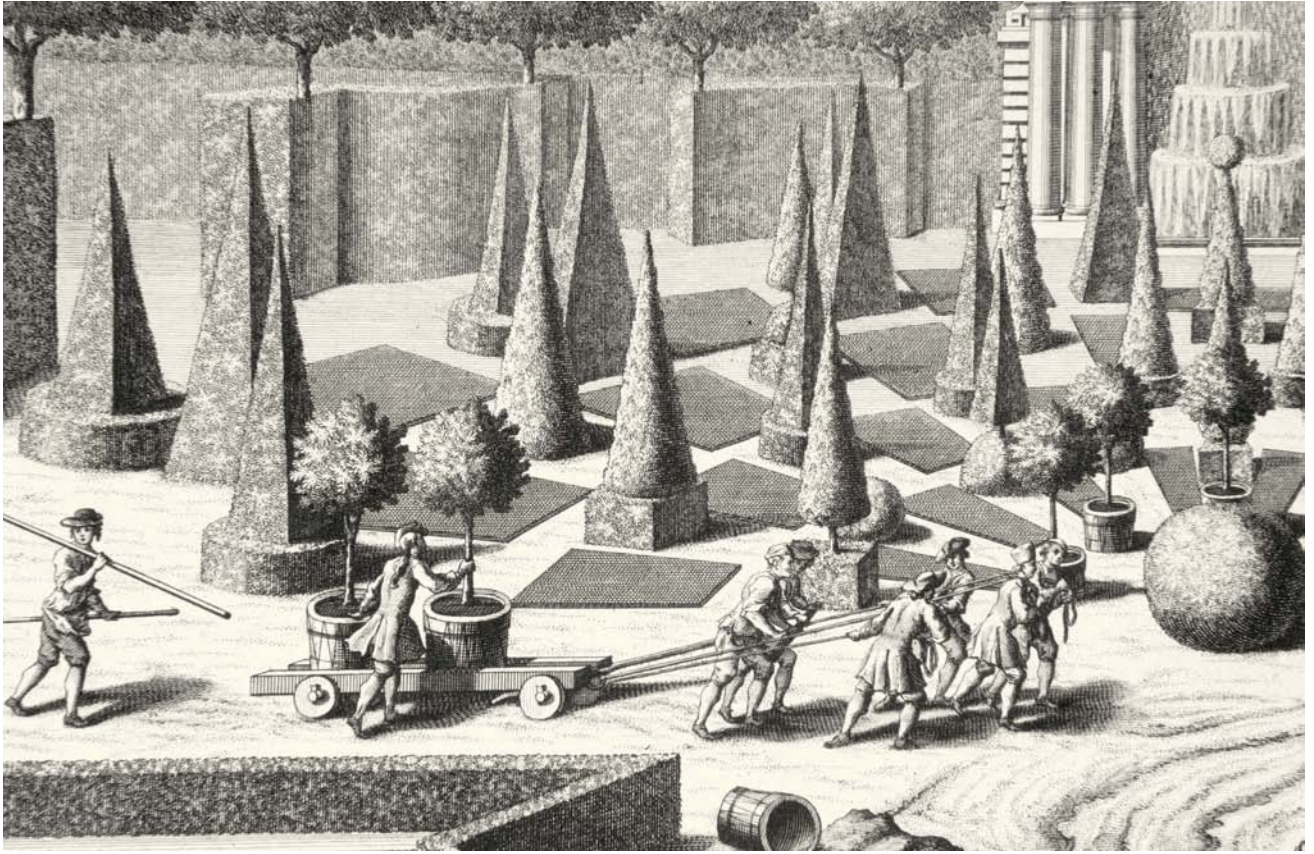
This encyclopedic book introduces some of the library's most fascinating works—botanical artworks, Renaissance herbals, old nursery catalogs, rare books, handwritten manuscripts and more. Leading experts in the field delve into the historical significance of the documents and how they were used to chronicle everything from the foundation of botany to gardening with plants from the New World.

Whether you read it as an enlightening study, use it to add pizzazz to your home's design or model your own garden on it using the classic layouts, *Flora Illustrata* will delight all who have an appreciation for flowers.





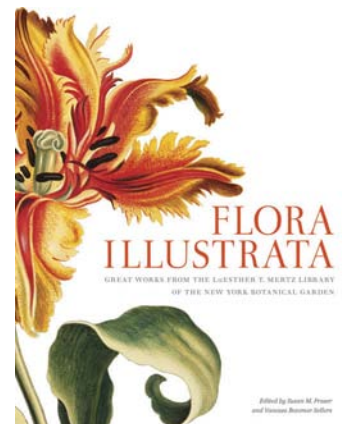
More than eight centuries of botanical paintings, prints, sketches and information combine for a beautiful and enlightening read.



POINTS OF INTEREST

Jacqueline shares what stood out for her most in *Flora Illustrata*.

- The New York Botanical Garden's development as a garden as well as its establishment of three important collections—living plants in landscapes and glasshouses, herbarium and library—is quite interesting.
- Captured here is a rich history of important garden prints, botanists and illustrators through the centuries.
- These prints represent the garden as an Elysium, a place to rest both the body and the mind.
- Roland J. Green published the first American gardening book without flower illustrations in 1828.



Flora Illustrata: Great Works from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library of the New York Botanical Garden, edited by Susan M. Fraser and Vanessa Bezemer Sellers, published by Yale University Press, © 2014; yalebooks.com.

we love | simply

THE TOPIARY

A simple way to bring a touch of English landscape into your home and garden.

WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED AND STYLED BY
MELINDA GRAHAM

TIP:

For a truly English feel, use classic topiary silhouettes.

Be sure to use coated or painted wire forms. They can stave off rust and last for years.



THE TINY TOPIARY THAT WE SEE today on counters and sunny windowsills has a long, rich history that dates to Roman times. There are examples of these cultivated masterpieces throughout the ages and across the world. A “topiary” is simply a tree that has been shaped by training or clipping the foliage and branches. The idea is to develop and maintain a clearly defined shape over time. The shapes range from symmetrical and geometric to whimsical and fanciful. With a skilled hand and loads of patience, trees shaped in this way become living sculptures. Although the topiary has gone in and out of fashion throughout the ages, the English were responsible for its triumphant revival in the mid-1800s.

In England throughout the 19th century, the topiary transformed from large tree specimens cultivated by experienced gardeners into small, cage-vining plant specimens primarily created by amateurs. James Shirley Hibberd, one of the most popular garden authors of the Victorian period, referred to the intrinsic charm of the topiary as “part of the mystique of the English cottage garden.” The topiary’s popularity rose to new heights in the 1870s. Since that time, most topiary trees are associated with classic English landscapes. Today, small examples grace many gardens, potting benches and homes around the world.

Opposite: Bring an ivy topiary inside to add a touch of classic English style to any room. Topiaries pair beautifully with traditional garden accessories, such as this vintage watering can, and with other accents like old books and natural wood tones.

Right: There are so many resources for English garden inspiration. Turn to vintage garden books or the Internet for wonderful ways to introduce a touch of British culture in your garden.



TIP:

Select a sturdy container. Stone and terra cotta work well; however, stones can be added to the bottoms of pretty but lightweight pots too.

How to Create an ENGLISH IVY TOPIARY

Making your own English-inspired topiary is a fairly simple task. All you need is a sturdy pot or planter, clean potting soil, a healthy vining ivy plant, a wire topiary form, florist wire and a bit of patience.

1. Place a small shard of terra cotta or a clean stone over the pot's drainage hole, and then fill the pot halfway with potting soil.
2. Center an ivy plant in the pot and fill with soil as needed. Soil should stop 1 inch from the top of the pot and not cover the vines of the plant.
3. Gently place a wire topiary form into the pot over the ivy, being careful not to damage any delicate roots or stems.
4. Water the plant and soil until the water begins to drain from the drainage hole.
5. Add more soil if the top has pushed below 1 inch from the top of the pot.
6. Carefully separate the trailing ivy stems so that all sides of the pot are covered equally.
7. Try to evenly space the stems while covering the wires of the form. Tie the stems to the form using florist wire.
8. Never force stems because they can easily break.

INTRODUCING A TOUCH OF ENGLISH

cottage style to your home or garden can be as simple as adding a beautiful topiary tree to a sunny room or shaded porch. The investment is small, yet the impact is great. But this horticultural practice can become addictive. One topiary tree can quickly multiply into many as your thumb begins to turn green. James Shirley Hibberd said it best: "It may be true, as I believe it is, that the natural form of a tree is the most beautiful possible for that tree, but it may happen that we do not want the most beautiful form, but one of our own designing, and expressive of our ingenuity."



TIP:

Trim the leaves as needed to keep the shape of the topiary tight and compact.



Far left: Large, established topiary trees can be your guides when looking for classic topiary shapes.

Top left: All you need is a sturdy container, clean potting soil, a vining ivy plant, a wire topiary form, florist wire and a good deal of patience.

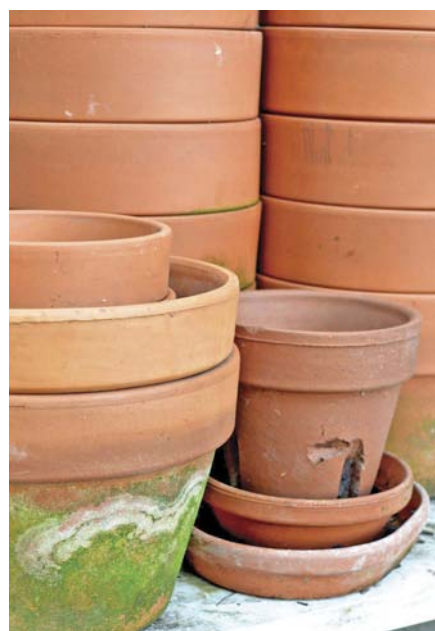
Top right: Purchase ivy plants from reputable greenhouses. Look for plants that appear healthy with several vining stems.

Center: Once the ivy roots are securely in the soil, carefully center the wire form in the pot.

Right: Small, clean river stones can be placed on the soil to keep it from drying out between waterings.

How to Care for an IVY TOPIARY

1. Outdoor ivy topiaries need full to partial shade and a consistent daytime temperature of 60–75°F. Indoor topiaries like fairly light, cool conditions, and good air circulation. East-, west- or south-facing windows are all fine unless the sun is so strong it burns the leaf tips.
2. Water the ivy when the top 1 inch of soil becomes dry. Keep the soil evenly moist, but never allow roots to stand in water.
3. Mist the leaves one to two times per week. Spray, preferably in the morning, until water begins to drip off the leaves.
4. Fertilize with a 10-10-10 water-soluble fertilizer once every four to six weeks. Mix ½ teaspoon of fertilizer to 1 gallon of water.
5. Wind vining ivy stems around the wire form as they grow. Use plant ties or coated florist wire to secure the stems to the form.
6. Look for signs of webs or tiny spots on the ivy's leaves, which are indications of spider mites. Gently clean affected areas with warm water; then treat the leaves with insecticidal soap.
7. When the ivy outgrows its current pot, select a new container that is 2 inches wider and deeper. Be sure to use a container with a drainage hole.



How to Age TERRA COTTA POTS

1. Begin with clean, dry, sterile pots.
2. Stir plain yogurt.
3. Use a foam brush to coat the entire outer surface of the pots with yogurt.
4. Set the pot in a shaded place outside until the pot achieves the desired look—at least 1 month.

Top left: Wrap the ivy stems around the wire form, being careful not to cause any damage. Use a piece of coated florist wire to secure the stems to the form.

Top right: Wire forms can be classic in shape but also feature whimsical details like this tiny watering can finial.

Bottom left: Any potting bench can be transported back in time to mid-19th-century England with the addition of a topiary or two!

Bottom right: Classic topiaries can be formed using plants other than vining ivy. Culinary topiaries can be made from woody, stemmed herbs such as rosemary. As they are trimmed, the cuttings can be used for many favorite recipes.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.

be here now

HEART OF THE HOME

Displaying and using vintage treasures creates a warm, inviting kitchen space.

BY DEVLIN SMITH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK TANNER



IN MANY HOMES, THE KITCHEN HAS REPLACED THE LIVING ROOM as the main gathering spot. A bright, cozy nook like this, filled with vintage treasures, would attract a crowd, whether a meal is being served or not. Follow this room's lead to create a space where family and friends feel most at home.

1. Show It Off.

Some pieces are too beautiful to be stored most of the year in a cabinet or trunk. Bring out your favorite vintage dishes and serving pieces, both family treasures and special finds, and display them throughout your kitchen. Floating shelves and repurposed cabinetry offer a variety of options for your collection.

2. Whimsical Touches.

The shop-worn menu displayed in this kitchen is fun and charming. Classic advertising signs or a chalkboard menu could offer a similar feeling in your kitchen.

3. Natural Wonders.

Brightly colored fruits and vegetables are delicious to eat and lovely to look at. Throughout the year, keep bowls of seasonal goodies on display, from pears to strawberries, peppers to squash, all impossible to resist. Fresh-cut flowers and potted herbs can also add color, scent and vibrancy to your kitchen.

4. Beautiful and Practical.

Plates, teacups, pitchers and canisters were made to be used. If the pieces in your collection are safe and sturdy enough to handle Sunday dinner, then bring them out of the cabinet, off the wall and onto the table, where they belong. Sharing your special collection with guests lets them know you think they're special too.





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FRENCH COUNTRY CANDLE HOLDER

Add an enchanting aura to any room with this attractive candle holder. Its alluring design will win you compliments.

\$44.95 plus shipping and handling*



QUAINT APPETIZER PLATES

Get ready to host a delightful tea party or luncheon with this set of four small ceramic plates. They add a touch of fancy to any kitchen. 8.3" diameter.

\$24.95 plus shipping and handling*



CLASSIC CERAMIC PITCHER

Pour elegance into your home with this classic pitcher. Serve drinks to admiring guests or simply place a bouquet in it for springtime freshness. Measures 8.6x5.8".

\$16.95 plus shipping and handling*



WINE CORK CANDLE SET

Build up the romance with these whimsical wine cork candles. Fit them onto the necks of your empty bottles to create a refined display. Each candle burns up to 4 hours and with wine-like fragrance, this set is indeed a gourmet's delight.

Item Weight: 0.2 lb. Set of 4
Each is 1" diameter x 3" high.
Paraffin wax.

\$7.95 plus shipping and handling*

shopping guide

Happy Kitchen

Pages 26–34

Vintage mint-green dishes: similar items at Anthropologie, (800) 309-2500 or anthropologie.com.

Handmade kitchen towels and placemats: similar items at Cottage Industry, cottageindustryinteriorshop.com.

TaDa

Pages 44–49

MicroGreens, PetitGreens, edible flowers, crystallized flowers and herbs, Tiny Veggies and specialty products: Gourmet Sweet Botanicals, (800) 931-7530 or shop.gourmetsweetbotanicals.com.

Easter bunny sugar cookies: Clairmarie Kelly of SugarPlum Tea Sweets, etsy.com/shop/sugarplumtea.

Entertaining

Pages 56–61

Pink pedestal plates: Rosanna Inc., (877) 343-3779 or rosannainc.com.

Maurilia sugar bowl: MyLuxuryDecor, (212) 951-1501 or myluxurydecor.com.

Easton server: Oneida, (888) 263-7195 or oneida.com.

Chambord runner: Julia B., (203) 329-8248 or juliab.com.

Harney tea: Harney & Sons Fine Teas, (888) 427-6398 or harney.com.

Pumpkin bread: SoberDough, (615) 775-3329 or soberdough.com.

Brownies: Fat Witch Bakery, (888) 419-4824 or fatwitch.com.

Home on the Farm

Pages 72–83

Antique telephones: 0208 290 0539 or antiquetelephones.co.uk.

Bedroom wallpaper: Cath Kidston, (877) 259-8559 or cathkidston.com.

Bedspread, throw pillows and fairy lights: Mia Home, 0158 076 6769.

Bicycle: Bells Bicycles, 0142 471 6541 or bellsbicycles.co.uk.

Paint: Calamine living room paint, Cream bathroom paint, French Grey kitchen cabinet and living room paint, Lulworth Blue kitchen paneling paint: Farrow & Ball, (888) 511-1121 or farrow-ball.com.

Coffee table: Ardingly Antiques & Collectors Fair, 01636 702326 or iacf.co.uk.

Floral cushion fabric: Cabbages & Roses, 0207 352 7333 or cabbagesandroses.com.

Isla sofa: sofa.com, 0345 400 2222 or sofa.com.

Rug and white wicker chair: Ikea, ikea.com.

Simply

Pages 88–91

Wire forms and vintage garden

accessories: Surroundings by Melinda, (239) 579-0409 or surroundingsbymelinda.com.

Resource for vintage postcards:

thegraphicsfairy.com.



coming next month



IN BLOOM

EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES in our May issue! We're touring rose-filled gardens, sharing rose accessories and featuring rose-accented floral arrangements. Also in May we'll bring you definitive guides for creating pretty springtime tablescapes and hosting easy, memorable outdoor parties and events.

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ad index

American Paint Company	americanpaintcompany.com	35
Asheford institute of Antiques	asheford.com	37
Cynthia Joy Ceramics	cynthiajoyceramics.etsy.com	35
Antoinette French Design	antoinettefrenchdesign.com	37
Bella Rosa Designs	bellarosadesigns.com	5
C'est Chouette Home	cestchouettehome.com	5
Cottage Flair	cottageflair.com	5
Country Roads Antiques	countryroadsantiques.com	99
Do It Yourself Chic	doityourselfchic.com	35
Earth Angels Studios	earthangelsstudios.com	2, 97
Farmhouse Wares	farmhousewares.com	29
Figments Studio	figmentsstudio.com	37
Flights of Fancy	flightsoffancyboutique.com	27
French Charmed	frenchcharmed.com	23
French Garden House	frenchgardenhouse.com	29
Graciously Adorned	graciouslyadorned.com	41
Meadow Street	meadowstreet.com	5
Miss Rose Sister Violet	missrosesisterviolet.com	29
Paris in a Cup	parisinacup.com	97
Rose Blossom Cottage	roseblossomcottage.com	5
Scarlett Rose	scarlettroseromance.com	97
Silver Spoon Jewelry	silverspoonjewelry.com	23
So Shabby Pink	soshabbypink.com	5
The Fancy Flea	lakelandgov.net	37
Three Sisters Decor & Antiques	threesistersdecor.com	49
Traditions	christmastraditions.com	9
Vintage Doors LLC	vintagedoors.com	41
Vintage Market & Design	vintagemarketanddesign.com	7
Vintage Rose Collection	vintagerosecollection.com	35
Wesley Allen Beds	wesleyallen.com	100

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Anne PAYETTA



1. PITCHER OF FLOWERS. Flowers are not an indulgence but a necessity, especially here in the Midwest. I love adding a pitcher of flowers on my tables. They brighten each room they are in.

2. LACE NAPKINS. We enjoy using real cloth napkins everyday with every meal. I love lace but I enjoy pretty patterned napkins too. Just like pretty dishes, they make every meal special.

3. IRONSTONE PITCHERS. This pitcher is by far my favorite thing to use as a vase. Roses, especially pink, are always a first choice of mine. Shown here is a simple vignette with my ironstone pitcher and the wood rosary I created using a glittered cross ornament and wooden beads.

4. VINTAGE ICE CREAM BUCKET. These buckets are so much fun to use as vases. I simply place a jar inside the bucket, then add my roses. It makes a beautiful statement piece for a room.

5. VINTAGE ART. I have a love for vintage paintings, especially of roses. Pink roses are a favorite of mine. Hanging rose paintings in a grouping or leaning against the wall brings a little romance to any room.

6. WOOD TOTE. These totes are fun to use on a table. Just add a few Ball jars and flowers and you have an instant centerpiece. Or you can use it as shown, as a pretty way to organize your crafts. This tote was given a vintage shabby look by adding torn pieces of decoupaged vintage wallpaper.



7. BLUE SELTZER BOTTLE. Adding a touch of color can be as simple as introducing one of these vintage seltzer bottles, in a grouping or just by itself.

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